

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on February 24, 2004. Claim 1 is amended to elucidate certain aspects of the claimed liquid dispensing apparatus. A minor formal amendment is made to claim 6. Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice to its subject matter. New claim 12 is presented, based upon claim 1 as amended, but omitting the recitation of the hook, the pivot, and so on. No new matter is believed to be introduced by this Amendment, and no substantive new issues are believed to be raised thereby. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment - in order to place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal - is respectfully solicited.

Applicant wishes to express his gratitude to Examiner Gordon, who telephoned Applicant's representative on 12 February 2004 to suggest changes that would place this application into condition for allowance. Applicant sincerely apologizes for not being able to respond earlier to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

PRIORITY PAPERS. Applicant filed certified copies of the priority documents on August 16, 2001. A recent check of the

P.A.I.R. system indicated that the PTO had in fact received those papers. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the entry in the electronic copy of the application under "Mail Room Date" 11/24/2003. This late mail room date may indicate that the priority documents have just recently been associated with the file by the PTO.

RESTRICTION. In response to the requirement for restriction, non-elected claim 10 has been cancelled.

REJECTION. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 11 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to define the invention properly. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 11 as amended herein satisfy the requirements of the statute.

Should there be any outstanding issues to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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